

DESIGNATING THE COMPREHENSIVE MISSOURI RIVER BASIN
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AS THE PICK-SLOAN MISSOURI BASIN
PROGRAM

DECEMBER 9, 1970.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

Mr. FALLON, from the Committee on Public Works,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 1100]

The Committee on Public Works, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1100) to designate the comprehensive Missouri River Basin development program as the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin program having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to designate the comprehensive Missouri River Basin development program as the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin program.

GENERAL STATEMENT

Major river systems such as the Missouri have become an increasingly significant factor in the economy of a nation which is making vast demands upon water resources. The Missouri, longest single river in North America, is no exception. Long feared for periodic and destructive floods, and ignored as a potential water resources of incalculable value, the Big Muddy is today undergoing a transformation at the hands of man. It has already been harnessed at many points by great manmade dams and reservoirs in a comprehensive river control program which the Congress of the United States approved in 1944. Now well advanced by cooperating Federal and State agencies, this broad program, probably the most far reaching ever undertaken in a major river basin, is changing the agricultural, industrial, and recreational life of the Missouri Basin.

In 1944, both the Department of the Army and the Department of the Interior submitted to the Congress comprehensive plans for the development of the Missouri River Basin.

The plan submitted by the Department of the Army was prepared under the direction of the then Missouri River Division Engineer of the Corps of Engineers, Col. Lewis A. Pick and became known as the Pick plan. Similarly, the Department of the Interior's plan was prepared under the direction of W. G. Sloan, then Assistant Regional Director of the Bureau of Reclamation, and became known as the Sloan plan.

In order to resolve the differences between the two plans, a committee was appointed, composed of two representatives each from the Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation. A coordinated plan was agreed upon, which was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1944, and became generally known as the Pick-Sloan plan. This plan formed the basis for the subsequent development of the Missouri River Basin.

W. G. Sloan served the Bureau of Reclamation for some years after development of the plan which bore his name, and much of the construction work of the Bureau's phase of the comprehensive program was begun during his tenure in office.

General Pick went on to become Chief of Engineers, and served in this capacity from March 1949 to January 1953, a period of which much of the initial construction of the comprehensive plan was begun. He died in December 1956.

COST TO THE UNITED STATES

Enactment of this legislation will not result in any cost to the United States.

AGENCY COMMENTS

The Department of the Army and other interested Federal agencies have indicated no objection to enactment of the bill.

COMMITTEE VIEWS

The committee believes it fitting and appropriate to name the comprehensive Missouri River Basin development program after two men who played such a significant role in its early formulation.

